

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 12-16, and 18-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 13, 16, and 20 are the independent claims. Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 2, 6-9, 12, 16, and 18-25 have been reversed in the Decision on Appeal from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated September 30th, 2004 (the decision). Examiner's rejections of claims 13-15 have been affirmed in the decision.

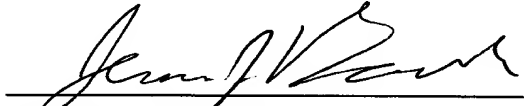
Please cancel claims 13-15 herewith without prejudice. The claims have been canceled to put the application in condition for allowance and to carry into effect the decision.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present response and amendment carries into effect the decision and submits that claims 1, 2, 6-9, 12, 16, and 18-25 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

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